

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historic brick sidewalk restored at Stanford Mansion State Historic Park

SACRAMENTO – The historic brick sidewalk in front of the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, at the corner of 8th and N Streets in downtown Sacramento, has been restored to its original circa-1872 herringbone pattern.

The Stanford Mansion was the home of Leland Stanford, one of the Big Four of the Central Pacific Railroad, and Governor of California from 1862 to 1864. The mansion itself is currently undergoing restoration.

This stretch of brick sidewalk may be the last example in daily use of the way Sacramento used to be. Over the years, the sidewalk in front of the home had been distorted through use, patching, and tree roots.

In the restoration process, the bricks were numbered, photographed, and removed. The sand bed was restored, leveled, and compacted in the original way and the bricks were put back in their original positions, including the unfinished (wild) connections to entries leading to the two former homes east of the Leland Stanford Mansion.

All the original hand-molded bricks were used, including a great deal of salvageable cracked brick. Other bricks used are from that era and were found locally. The bricks vary in size as well as consistency, depending on how close they were to the fire when they were originally fired.

California State Parks Restoration Work Specialist Roland Rau, who headed the project, noted, "There is a lot of heritage in each brick. Sometimes when you handled them you could sense the history and you wondered if a famous person or ancestor had walked on them. It was a popular location. Leland Stanford and family probably walked across the sidewalk."

The project is expected to be completed on Tuesday afternoon, May 8.

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